Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings include changes to FIG. 5, and replaces the original sheet including FIG. 5.

FIG. 5 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Replacement Sheets (1 page)

REMARKS

Claims 1-90 were pending in the application. Claims 48-49 and 89-90 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-47, 50-88 have been amended. The specification and drawings (FIG. 5) have been amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-47 and 50-88 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I.   Claim Objections

Claims 9, 11-36, 38-39, 60-85, and 87-88 were objected to for containing parentheses at the beginning of each claim limitation. Applicant has amended each of the claims to remove the parentheses from the claims.

Claims 20, 22-23, 25-28 and 39 were objected to as containing commas at locations where semi-colons would be more appropriate. Applicant has amended each of the claims to include semi-colons at appropriate locations.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections to the claims.

II.   The § 112 Rejections

Claims 12-28, 30-33, 36, 48-49, 61-77, and 79-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner considered the term "if" to be alternative language that rendered the claims indefinite. Applicant has removed the term "if" from the claims.

Claims 10, 14, 20, 22-23, 25-28, 32-33, 35-36, 39-39, 59 63, 69, 71-72, 74-77, 81-82 84-85, and 87-88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for containing the term "or". Applicant respectfully disagrees. Alternative expressions are permitted if they present no uncertainty or ambiguity with respect to the claims. In particular,

alternative expressions using "or" are acceptable. *See* MPEP 2173.05(h). Applicant has formatter the claims to more clearly separate each alternative expression for the Examiner's convenience. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 112 rejections.

III. The § 102/103 Rejections

Claims 1-90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,806,075 ("Jain").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 recites a computer-implemented method for providing convergence of multiple copies of a table to a same state in a database system. In particular, the method includes asynchronously capturing a change to a row of a given table copy from a database recovery log. The database recovery log contains an entry that describes the change to the row of the given table copy.

Jain discloses a system and method for replicating modifications made at a local site to multiple remote sites in a peer-to-peer environment (see Abstract). More specifically, Jain discloses a system that maintains multiple copies of the same data item at multiple locations, and the system permits a user to modify any copy of a data item (regardless of location) with the ability to propagate the modification to other copies of the data item (col. 1, ll. 20-29). In contrast, the prior art systems disclosed in Jain provide only a "master" copy with multiple "slave" copies, in which a user is permitted only to make changes to the master copy (col. 1, ll. 30-38).

With respect to data modification, identification, and retention, Jain discloses that in order to propagate the modifications made to data items in one database to the same data items in another database, it is necessary to retain the modifications until they can be made to the other sites (col. 7, ll. 4-7). Jain discloses that prior art methods – i.e., the master/slave prior art

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systems – use a transactional recovery log to retain and identify database modifications for propagation (col. 7, ll. 7-9). However, unlike these prior art systems, Jain encodes propagation information directly in tables in the database system. That is, the tables themselves contain all the information necessary to replicate a data modification to other data sites (col. 7, ll. 28-38).
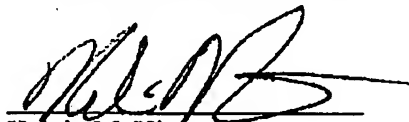
Thus, while Jain discloses techniques for replicating modifications made at a local site to multiple remote sites in a peer-to-peer environment, Jain, nevertheless, fails to disclose asynchronously capturing a change to a row of a given table copy from a database recovery log (emphasis added). Instead, as discussed above, Jain discloses encoding all the information necessary to replicate a data modification within a table of the database system.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 (and the claims that depend therefrom), therefore, should be allowable over Jain.

Claims 40 and 50 each incorporates limitations similar to those of claim 1. Claims 40 and 50, and the claims that depend therefrom, are also allowable over Jain for reasons corresponding to those set forth with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that claims 1-47 and 50-88 are allowable over the reference cited above, and are in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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